

800 Luzerne Street (House)
(Cambria Steel Company House)
Westmont Neighborhood
800 Luzerne Street
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5722

HABS

PA

11-1010,

102-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HABSPA,
11-JOTO,
102-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

800 LUZERNE STREET (HOUSE)
(Cambria Steel Company House VI)

HABS No. PA-5722

Location: 800 Luzerne Street, Westmont, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Large and well-illuminated single-family home. Two-and-a-half stories, large gambrel roof, first floor and chimney of rough ashlar, wood shingles in gable. Hip-roofed sun porch and entry porch. Large, twelve-pane sash windows throughout. House is surrounded by shrubs, trees and a large expanse of lawn. A curving driveway provides access from Hood Avenue and from the corner of Luzerne Street. The lot measures 198' on Luzerne by 200' on Hood.

History: The house was designed for Karl J. Fronheiser by architect Henry Rogers, apparently when the property was still owned by the Cambria Steel Co. In 1911, the city directory lists Karl Fronheiser, treasurer of the Johnstown Millwork and Lumber Co., and his wife, Carrie, as living at this address, and the house was indicated on the 1913 Sanborn map. The Fronheisers did not purchase the property from Cambria until July 14, 1915, when they paid \$5,300. On May 29, 1918, the Fronheisers sold the property to Andrew Crichton for the astounding sum of \$25,000. Crichton was a civil and mining engineer with offices located in the Farmers Trust and Mortgage Co. building in the Second Ward of Johnstown. The house remained in the Crichton family until 1980.

Sources:

Architectural drawings, including plans and elevations, by architect Henry Rogers, collection of the architect's grandson, Phillip Newbaker, 418 Luzerne Street, Westmont.

Deed Records (267:443, 287:646, 540:177, 1069:415, 1131:306), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Johnstown City Directory, 1915-16.

Sanborn Map Co., Westmont, Pennsylvania, (New York: The Sanborn Map Co., 1913).

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). An overview of history of the city (HABS No. PA-5669) and an overview of the neighborhood of Westmont (HABS No. PA-5671) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the downtown and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Natalie Gillespie in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Gillespie's and other project historians' work was published as The Character of a Steel Mill City: Four Historic Neighborhoods of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1989), edited by Kim E. Wallace. Illustrations in the publication include large format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe and 35 mm photographs taken by the project historians.